

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 KATHMA 02664 111309Z

41

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-03 IO-03 /014 W

----- 130422

R 111025Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1973

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 2664

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ASAF, NP

SUBJECT: RNAC AIR SAFETY

REF: A. STATE 111462

B. KATHMANDU 2032

C. STATE 095899

1. UNDP HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT ICAO PROJECT TO IMPROVE NEPAL'S AIR SAFETY PROCEDURES WAS APPROVED BY GON JUNE 5. PROJECT AGREEMENT IS NOW BEING SENT TO UN HEADQUARTERS FOR FINAL UN APPROVAL, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE PRO FORMA ACTION.

2. UNDP HOPES THAT ICAO HAS ALREADY BEGUN SCREENING AND CLEARING OF CANDIDATES FOR KATHMANDU POSITIONS SO THAT PERSONNEL COULD BEGIN TO ARRIVE IN NEPAL WITHIN 2-4 MONTHS. EIGHT-MAN TEAM WILL BE COMPOSED OF PROJECT MANAGER WHO WILL ALSO SERVE AS AIR WORTHINESS ADVISOR, FLIGHT OPERATIONS ADVISOR, AIR LAW ADVISOR, AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER ADVISOR, AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER INSTRUCTOR, COMMUNICATIONS-OPERATIONS ADVISOR, ELECTRICAL ENGINEER, AND FIRE AND RESCUE ADVISOR.

3. DELAY IN SIGNING AGREEMENT WAS RESULT OF BUREAUCRATIC DIFFICULTIES STEMMING IN LARGE PART FROM DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES AS DELINEATED UNDER NEPAL'S EDUCATIONAL REFORM PLAN. PLAN ASSIGNED ALL TRAINING RESPONSIBILITIES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 KATHMA 02664 111309Z

TO MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND UNIVERSITY. DIFFICULTY AROSE

WHEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR ICAO PROGRAM WAS ASSIGNED TO CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT, AND ACTION THAT MINISTRY OF EDUCATION CONSIDERED USURPATION OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES.

4. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, EMBASSY HAS SUPPORTED UNDP WHENEVER POSSIBLE IN EFFORTS TO GET ICAO PROJECT APPROVED AND UNDERWAY. PRESENCE OF ICAO ADVISORS SHOULD AFFORD BETTER OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE MORE RATIONAL APPRAISAL OF RNAC SITUATION.

5. DIFFICULTY IN MAKING SUCH JUDGMENT WAS ILLUSTRATED RECENTLY. DEPARTMENT IS AWARE THAT THERE HAVE LONG BEEN REPORTS AND RUMORS ABOUT LACK OF AIRWORTHINESS OF RNAC AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING HAWKER-SIDDELY 748'S, BETTER KNOWN AS AVROS. AVROS ARE PRINCIPAL AIRCRAFT USED ON RNAC FLIGHTS FROM KATHMANDU TO BIRATNAGAR AND POKHARA. AS BRITISH USE RNAC AVROS FOR TRANSPORT OF GURKHA SOLDIERS, AND IN VIEW OF RUMORS ABOUT AIRWORTHINESS OF THESE AIRCRAFT, THEY REQUESTED THAT FACTORY INSPECTION TEAM COME TO NEPAL TO INSPECT AVROS. BRITISH MILITARY ATTACHE TOLD EMBASSY OFFICIALS THAT TEAM HAD REPORTED THAT AVROS "WERE IN EXCELLENT CONDITION AND IF ANYTHING WERE OVERMAINTAINED." BUT WHEN EMBASSY OFFICER THEN QUERIED ICAO REP STARK, WHO HAS SINCE DEPARTED NEPAL, ON FINDINGS OF TEAM HE STATED THAT AVROS WERE IN "LOUSY SHAPE." THIS APPALLED BRITISH WHO HAVE OFFERED THROUGH OFFICIAL CHANNELS TO PROVIDE US WITH SUMMARY OF HAWKER-SIDDELY TEAM'S REPORT.

6. ALL MISSION PERSONNEL ARE AWARE THAT OFFICIAL TRAVEL ON RNAC'S SMALLER AIRCRAFT SHOULD BE KEPT TO ABSOLUTE MINIMUM. WE INTEND TO CONTINUE WITH THIS POLICY UNTIL THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE ATTESTING TO AIRWORTHINESS OF RNAC AIRCRAFT. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE WILL MAINTAIN CLOSE LIAISON WITH ICAO TEAM AND UNDP, FOLLOWING TEAM'S ARRIVAL. QUAINTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR SAFETY, AIRLINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KATHMA02664
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750203-0805
From: KATHMANDU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750662/aaaaceab.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 111462
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RNAC AIR SAFETY
TAGS: EAIR, ASAF, NP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006